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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/008,241	11/08/2001	Ralf Otremba	WMP-IFT618	6971

7590 03/31/2003

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EXAMINER

MCCAMEY, ANN M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2833

DATE MAILED: 03/31/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/008,241

Applicant(s)

OTREMBA ET AL.

Examiner

Ann M McCamey

Art Unit

2833

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 November 2002.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 and 11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 and 11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 08 November 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Applicant is advised that claims 1-9 and 11 were originally filed. Under 37 C.F.R. 1.126, original claim 11 was renumbered as claim 10. Amendment A was filed on 11/20/02 adding new claim 10 and canceling (original) claim 11 (which had been renumbered as 10). New claim 10 was once again renumbered under 37 C.F.R. 1.126 as claim 11. It will be inferred that Applicant intended to cancel *original* claim 11. Amended claim 1, original claims 2-9 and new claim 11 (renumbered from 10) are currently pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-9 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's Admitted Prior Art ("A.A.P.A.") in view of Salina et al. (US 5,340,993).

Regarding claims 1 and 11, A.A.P.A. discloses the invention substantially as claimed including a semiconductor unit having: a housing having a first side face; and at least two terminal pins protruding out of said first side face of the housing (Specification, Page 1, Lines 12-20). A.A.P.A. fails to teach an isolation barrier formed between the terminal pins. Salina et al. teach an isolation barrier 26 formed between two electrical

elements. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to add an isolation barrier to minimize electrical creepage between the elements.

Regarding claim 2, Salina et al. teach said isolation barrier being integrally formed onto said housing (Abstract, Lines 4-5).

Regarding claims 3 and 4, Salina et al. teach said first side face having a first edge and a second edge opposite said first edge; and said isolation barrier being a plate extending on said first side face from said first edge to said second edge.

Regarding claim 5, Salina et al. teach said isolation barrier having a side remote from said first side face of said housing; and said two terminal pins protrude beyond said side of said isolation barrier.

Regarding claim 6, Salina et al. teach the housing having at least one side wall 19 that together with said isolation barrier encloses said two terminals from at least three sides.

Regarding claim 7, Salina et al. teach at least two terminal pins protruding out of said housing next to each other in a row.

Regarding claim 8, Salina et al. teach said first side face having a first edge and a second edge opposite said first edge; a first one of said terminal pins being located closer to said first edge than a second one of said two terminal pins; and said second one of said two terminal pins being located closer to said second edge than said first one of said two terminal pins (pins are asymmetrical in figures).

Regarding claim 9, Salina et al. does not teach a plurality of isolation barriers. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have a plurality of isolation barriers, since it has been held that a mere duplication of the essential working parts of a device involves only routine skill in the art. *St. Regis Paper Co. v. Bemis Co.*, 193 USPQ 8.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ann M McCamey whose telephone number is (703) 305-3422. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9-5:30.

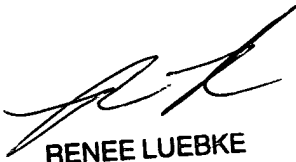
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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula A. Bradley can be reached on (703) 308-2319. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 872-9318 for regular communications and (703) 872-9319 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.

AMM
March 25, 2003



RENEE LUEBKE
PRIMARY EXAMINER